

Board of Education Meeting

June 18, 2013

Call to Order

Board Chair, Sue Porcello, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Suffield High School Media Center. Present: Board members Sue Porcello, Lori D'Ostuni; Michelle Zawawi, Mary Roy, George Beiter, and Jeanne Gee.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Recognition/Awards

Recognition of Retiring Teachers and Administrators

Superintendent Baldwin and Board Chair, Susan Porcello recognized the following teachers and administrators: Angela Roman, Principal of the A. Ward Spaulding School; Deborah Miner, Family and Consumer Sciences, Suffield High School; Deborah Newby, Fifth Grade Teacher, McAlister Intermediate School; and Janice Potter, English Teacher, Suffield High School.

Scott Schneider joined the meeting at 6:40p.m.

CABE Student Leadership Awards

Brendan Looney and Amelia Picard, two eighth grade students were awarded the CABE Student Leadership Award. The criteria for this award includes willingness to take on challenges, capability to make difficult decisions; concern for others, ability to work with others, willingness to commit to a project, diplomacy, ability to understand issues clearly and the ability to honor a commitment.

Suffield Middle School Student Recognition

Mr. Anthony Kydd, Assistant Principal, Suffield Middle School introduced the following Suffield Middle School students to the Board in recognition of awards they have received:

Connecticut Association of Schools Leadership Awards – Luna Allen and Zachary DelVaglio
Connecticut Association of Schools Scholar Leader Award – Kelly Carucci and Giancarlo Isotti
CAPSS Award Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendent's – Giancarlo Isotti
Scholastic Challenge Trophy- American Scholastic Achievement League – Ziad Hassan
Secretary of State – Excellence in Citizenship Award – Caelie Flanagan

Public Comment

Kris Karam, parent, 48 Apple Lane, West Suffield, CT stated that she appreciates all the Board does and thanked them. Mrs. Karam shared her concern about the WiFi being installed in the schools. She stated that there is a large body of evidence concerning children and the effects it can have on their health down the road. She stated that many other countries have already banned WiFi in the schools, as a result of these findings. She suggested that perhaps limited use could be considered to decrease the exposure time.

Suffield High School Student Rep

Alyssa Puia, Student Rep, gave her final report to the Board.

- Alyssa stated that the A team had participated in the selection process for the new Assistant Principal.
- The student yearbook picnic was held
- Scholarship night will be held on Wednesday night
- Graduation Saturday

The Board thanked Alyssa for doing such a nice job this school year. Alyssa introduced Ben Gee to the Board. Ben stated that he was looking forward to representing the students at the Suffield High School for next year.

Communications

The Superintendent stated that she had been contacted by the Suffield Observer in regard to an article that had been sent by the First Selectman's Office. The Observer stated that they would hold a space so that the Chair could develop a response. The Chair and the Superintendent stated that they would work together to write a response.

Approval of Minutes

Gee moved, Roy seconded to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2013 Board of Education meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Action

A. Digital Learning Pilot Outcome and Next Steps

Dr. Collin updated the Board on the status of the Digital Learning Pilot.

Dr. Collin stated that the Instructional Leadership Team had met on Tuesday morning (6-18) Dr. Collin presented what has been learned, some of the challenges, and next steps to articulating quality Tier I instruction in a digital environment. Dr. Collin will return again in November to update the Board in regard to the ongoing process.

Students from the Suffield High School joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Superintendent Baldwin and Sue Porcello paused for a moment in order to present the CAFE Student Leadership Award to Katelyn Madison and Joshua Cardin.

B. Updates on Safety and Security Initiatives in District

The Superintendent reported to the Board on the status of all of the actions that have been taken to improve the safety and security of students in the district since December 14, 2012. To date, building access control measures have been put into place such as ID badges, video surveillance and electronic door entry at McAlister, Suffield Middle School and Central Office. A front door camera has been installed at the Suffield High School. Assessment of exterior doors, and windows of all facilities door closures, etc., policy has been reviewed in regard to volunteers and visitors. Administrative Council has been met with the Suffield Police and reviewed existing lockdown procedures.

Additional security measures are planned for the 2013-2014 school year at Spaulding, McAlister Intermediate School and the Suffield Middle School for interior door hardware replacement and an interagency communication system is proposed for BOE, Police, DPW, Fire and Ambulance services through ACCE. The district will establish a District Security and Safety committee with town agency representation to review procedures, training and strengthen collaboration.

C. Financial Report – June 18, 2012

Diane Raymo, Consultant, reviewed for Board the preliminary Financial Statement dated June 18, 2013. She explained the new format to be used.

Motion #13-35: Gee moved, Schneider seconded **to approve the new financial reporting tool.** The motion passed with one abstention from George Beiter.

D. Healthy Food Certificate

Each year, the Healthy Food Certificate is presented to the Board of Education to certify whether or not the district will follow the guidelines. In previous years the Board has voted not to participate. The Superintendent recommended that the Board vote not to participate again this coming year.

Motion #13-36: Roy moved, Schneider seconded that **the district would not participate in the Healthy Food Certificate for the 2013-2014 school year.** The motion passed unanimously.

Reports to the Board

A. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported that she and the First Selectman had met with Jeff Ziplow from Blum Shapiro to look at the efficiencies of both the Board and the town. The Superintendent stated that she is waiting to hear back from Mr. Ziplow about the changes to his proposal.

B. Board Chair Report

Sue Porcello, Chair, stated the next scheduled meeting will be held on July 23 and not on June 16 as previously scheduled if the board had no objections. There were no objections.

Subcommittee Reports

A. Facilities Subcommittee - George Beiter, Chair of the Facilities Subcommittee, reviewed the proposal for the two projects taking place at the high school. He reported that the sprinkler system project for both the baseball and softball fields were started on June 18.

The new proposed paths will provide safer pedestrian and bike travel for students. The anticipated timeline for completion is August.

B. Policy Subcommittee – Policy 5125 P/R was placed on the table for the required 30 day read.

Future Business

- Common Core State Standards – Implementation of Smarter Balanced Assessment
- Large Animal Facility
- Substitute Service
- School Climate Survey
- National Honor Society
- Food Service Update

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

Schneider moved, Beiter seconded to move into executive session for the purpose of discussion of Collective Bargaining Strategy related to the School Nurse's contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular Session

Beiter moved and Schneider seconded to return to regular session at 9:49 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Schneider moved, Beiter seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori D'Ostuni
Secret

LD/dal